

some 436,000 persons. There are over 96,000 veterans and dependents in North Carolina now receiving some form of disability or death benefits, and it is significant to note that we have about 2,000 Tar Heels who were disabled in the so-called "peacetime" actions around the globe, since Korea. These men, together with their dependents, —widows, orphans and aging parents who lost sons—comprise about 45% of our population. Last year alone, Federal expenditures for veterans in North Carolina exceeded \$143,000,000.

For the most part, assistance in obtaining and continuing to receive these benefits must come from outside the Federal Government. These benefits are not automatic; entitlement must be proved. Such assistance is provided all over North Carolina through the work of the North Carolina Veterans Commission, headed by Collin McKinne.

#### CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

Recurrent international crises and the grave dangers that face our nation in this nuclear age leave little room for doubt that realistic civil defense is essential to our continued well-being and security as a free people. It is considered vital to our national diplomacy and generally accepted as part of our American defense. As such, it is vital to us as a State and as individual citizens.

North Carolina Civil Defense, established with a small coordinating agency operating under the Governor, directed by General Edward F. Griffin, has made outstanding progress during the biennium.

Emergency Services are established with responsibilities assigned to 27 State agencies and organizations. Training has been conducted by many of the services at State, area, and local levels.

Every county and 275 cities and towns in North Carolina have named local Civil Defense Directors. Eighty-three counties have Emergency Plans written and approved, and 159 cities and towns covered by published plans. These plans, prepared under supervision of the State Agency, meet Department of Defense criteria and enable the local agency to qualify for matching federal funds and government surplus property.

Nobody knows whether all these defense measures will ever have to be used, but as long as there is any possibility that they will be required to preserve our State and its people, the effort to establish and maintain a state of operational readiness is fully justified.

#### NATIONAL GUARD

The North Carolina National Guard is a volunteer organization composed of citizen-soldiers who devote part of their time to training to be ready for any State or National emergency requiring the services of disciplined and armed forces.

In the event of enemy attack, the National Guard has standing orders to mobilize immediately as a part of our civil defense plan and will serve in the State pending their call to Federal duty.

The organization consists of units of the Army and Air National Guard located in 102 cities and towns across the State. The Adjutant General Claude T. Bowers is an able and experienced veteran and administrator.

Financial support is provided jointly by the State and Federal Governments, with the bulk coming from national defense funds.